GROUND-HOPPER Magazine

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AUG '89

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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE INDEPENDENT NON-LEAGUE TRAVELLER!

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

GROUND-HOPPER Magazine

439 Merton Road, Wandsworth London SW18 5LB

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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE INDEPENDENT NON-LEAGUE TRAVELLER

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WHAT'S WHAT IN THIS MONTH'S SPARKLING ISSUE

NEXT ISSUE:
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GROUNDHOPPER'S VIEWPOINT

with
STEVE KING



Non-League clubs up and down the country all start each season with confidence that maybe this will be "their" year and that success will be just around the corner. Unfortunately, for 99% of them, they end up with nothing more than a few individual moments to cherish after a long, hard season, and reflect back on what might have been. Most non-league clubs have a certain amount of ambition, and the introduction of the pyramid system a few seasons ago ensured that a level of ambition, confidence and future planning is maintained and acted upon, because it would be what the supporters demanded - and indeed expected.
After all, there would be little point of smaller clubs competing if they didn't think that one day they could be playing in the GM Vauxhall Conference or indeed even in the Football League.

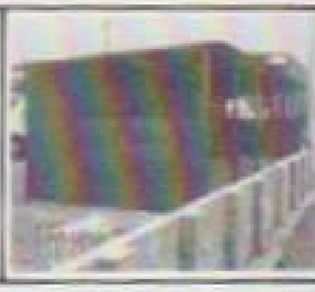
Three clubs spring to mind immediately if you wanted classic examples of how small clubs who were unheard of just a few years ago have managed to build fine football teams, create facilities to match, and put their towns and villages on the soccer map. The first is Fisher Athletic, who have risen from obscurity to being on the brink of membership of the Football League in just a few incredible years. They are incredibly ambitious, they have been trying to persuade former Manchester City boss Malcolm Allison that Salter Road is the place to be, and they have built up their facilities from nothing to become one of the top clubs outside the Football League. And as you will see from the special feature on the Docklands club elsewhere in this issue, their ambitions do not end there.
The next club that springs to mind is Bashley, newly promoted to the Beazer Homes League from the Wessex League. They have had a fine side for the last three or four seasons, again clinching the championship with ease, they have also had excellent runs in the FA Vase, have built up their ground to Southern League standard, and are quite capable of doing well in a higher standard of football. To think that this tiny village just 1½ miles from New Milton in the New Forest now boasts a Southern League club is remarkable in itself, but the high-scoring Bashley side have earned this success, and the club overall has performed minor miracles to get where it is today. This surely is a lesson to all village sides that with hard work, dedication and perseverence, anything is possible.
My final club is probably the most astonishing of all those mentioned so far. Down on the Kent coast, just a few miles from Folkestone is a club called Hythe Town, and not only have they deservedly been accepted into the Beazer Homes League, but with the side they have, they should be in the GM Conference within 3 years. Their facilities are astonishing, with cover on all 4 sides, and in next month's issue, there will be a special feature on this club. All three

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NEWSDESK

COMPILED BY STEVE KING



Sussex County League side THREE BRIDGES have secured a new long term lease from the council, and have started work on a major rebuilding programme to their clubhouse. Work includes new changing rooms, larger improved shower facilities, new toilets, a larger bar area and a boardroom. The work will bring the ground grading at Three Bridges up to grade one and pave the way for a new look Jubilee Field.

Groundhoppers will be disappointed to learn that the Midland Combination League, so often in the past one of the first leagues to start the season, will be kicking off in line with most other leagues next season - Saturday 19th August, thus robbing groundhoppers of an extra Saturday to take a look at some of the grounds in the league.

Snowdown CW are applying for membership of the Winstonlead Kent League Division One for 1989/90 or else they will lose senior status with the KCFA.

Late news is that Snowdown CW have lost their senior status, and because of that their application to join Div.1 was not discussed at the Kent League AGM.

CHATHAM TOWN have folded, but have re-emerged as CHATHAM F.C.

Skol Cup Draw First Round (ties to be played on 8 or 9 August) as follows:- Dumbarton v. Stenhousemuir; East Fife v. Queens Park; Stirling Albion v. Berwick Rangers; Arbroath v. East Stirlingshire; Cowdenbeath v. Montrose; Stranraer v. Brechin. Second Round (ties to be played on 15 or 16 August) as follows:- Rangers (holders) v. Arbroath or East Stirlingshire; Queen of South v. St. Johnstone; Airdrie v. Forfar, Albion Rovers v. Aberdeen; Hearts v. Cowdenbeath or Montrose; East Fife or Queens Park v. Morton; Dunfermline v. Raith Rovers; Kilmarnock v. Motherwell; Dundee v. Clyde; Dumbarton or Stenhousemuir v. Celtic; Dundee Utd v. Partick; Stranraer or Brechin v. Falkirk; Clydebank v. Meadowbank; Stirling or Berwick v. St. Mirren; Hibernian v. Alloa; Ayr v. Hamilton.

EARLY NEWS OF PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

Bodmin Town will play Q.P.R. on Monday 24th July, 7.30pm kick-off.
Canterbury v. Millwall on Wednesday 8th August, 7.30pm kick-off.
Ashford v. Charlton Ath on Saturday 29th July, 3pm kick-off (opening of ground)
Ashford v. West Ham on Thursday 3rd August, 7.30pm kick-off (opening of lights)
Ashford v. Maidstone on Thursday 10th August, 7.30pm kick-off.
East Grinstead v. Leyton Orient on Thursday 10th August, 6.30pm kick-off.
East Grinstead v. Charlton Athletic on Wednesday 16th August, 6.30pm kick-off.
Pagham v. Wimbledon XI on Saturday 5th August, 3pm kick-off.
Walton & Hersham v. Wimbledon XI on Wednesday 9th August, 7.30pm kick-off.
Bromley v. Wimbledon XI on Monday 14th August, 7.30pm kick-off.
Yeading v. Wembley on Saturday 29th July, 3pm kick-off (at Brunel Univ; Uxbridge)
Brook House v. Wembley on Tuesday 1st August, 6.45pm or 7.00pm kick-off.
Viking Sports v. Wembley on Saturday 5th August, 3pm kick-off.
Chelmsford City v. Wembley on Thursday 10th August, 7.30pm kick-off.
Wembley v. Dartford on Saturday 12th August, 3pm kick-off (programme fair before match at 10.30am).
Wembley v. Sudbury Town or Enfield on Tuesday 15th August, 7.30pm kick-off.
Wingate v. Wembley Reserves on Saturday 12th August, 3pm kick-off.
Exmouth Town v. Watford on Friday 4th August, 7.30pm kick-off.
Welwyn v. Watford XI on Tuesday 1st August, 6.45pm kick-off.
Berkhamsted Town v. Watford XI on Friday 4th August, 7.30pm kick-off.
Finchley v. Watford XI on Wednesday 9th August, 7.30pm kick-off.
Harpenden Town v. Watford XI on Thursday 10th August, 6.45pm kick-off.
Hertford Town v. Watford XI on Saturday 12th August, 3pm kick-off.

GROUNDHOPPER'S VIEWPOINT (from page 3)

grounds have facilities which are new, clean, and ready to cope with the 1990's. Sadly, hundreds of other clubs still have facilities to go with the 1950's. Lack of ambition, lack of local support, lack of financial assistance are all reasons for the state that they are in. So surely, if Fisher Athletic, Bashley and Hythe Town can show what can be achieved, let us hope that many more clubs will wake up before it is too late and start to get their facilities in line with the 1990's.

WELSH RABBIT

All the latest news and gossip from the Welsh non-league scene
with David Collins



Pride of place in this month's column must go to MERTHYR TYDFIL for their late run to take the Beazer Homes championship, a feat which looked beyond their reach until the closing weeks of the season. Without doubt this has been the highlight of a Welsh non-league season blighted by the demise of NEWPORT COUNTY. Two of Wales' other top non-league sides also captured trophies - BANGOR CITY (4th in the HFS Loans League) taking the league's President's Cup, and COLWYN BAY (4th in the Bass N.W. Counties) lifting their league's RAAB Karcher Cup.

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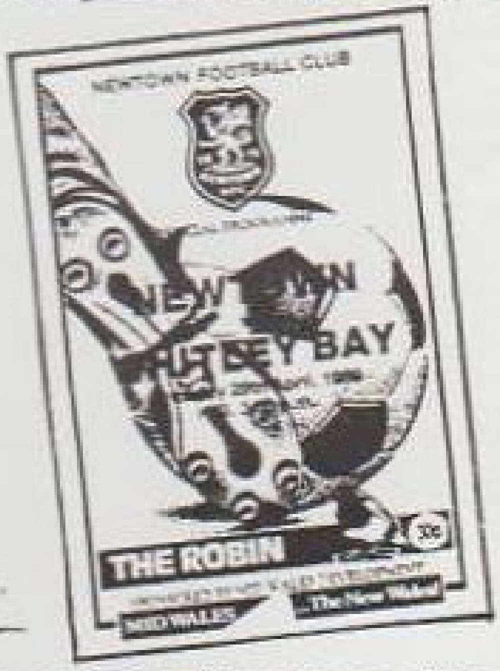
The most recent addition to the group of Welsh clubs competing in English-based competitions is NEWTOWN, the leading club in Central Wales, who stepped up into the HFS Loans 1st Division for 1988-89 and finished a creditable ninth. The Robins play at Latham Park, where they have been based since 1951 - though their history goes back much further and they actually competed in the first-ever Welsh Cup tie (against Druids, then of Rumbon - see last month).

Latham Park, just south west of the town centre, behind the Police Station, is a delightful ground, picturesque and well-maintained. There is an attractive stand on the halfway line, another covered area opposite, and next to the stand the grass banking has been cut into terraced steps. I thoroughly recommend a visit.

The Newtown programme is a real bonus too - the outer shell of glossy cover and adverts containing a 20 page insert packed with reading material, statistics and photographs, and all for 30p.



Newtown's Latham Park Ground - action in the Whitley Bay goalmouth which the visitors won 1-0.



BARRY TOWN may be the next Welsh club competing in an English League, as they have applied to both the Beazer Homes and Hellenic Leagues. A move to the latter seems strange, but it would give Barry access to the pyramid system. They might just find themselves meeting NEWPORT AFC, a new club formed by County supporters and also provisionally accepted into the Hellenic League. If this venture goes ahead they plan to use either Somerton Park or the Glebelands Stadium, currently the home of Gwent County leaguers CHRISTCHURCH.

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In North Wales, the Welsh Alliance league will decide in early July whether to increase to two divisions for 1989-90. It all depends on the number of new applicants - there are already five : MOLD ALEXANDRA, MOSTYN, a reformed PWLLHELI & DISTRICT and Cheshire clubs SALTNEY TOWN and SALTNEY FERRY.

Meanwhile shock news in Central Wales is PRESTEIGNE's resignation from the Manweb League. They will field their first team in the Mid-Wales South league next season. TALGARTH look likely to apply to replace them, with KINGTON another possible applicant.

More news next month, plus features on NANTLLE VALE and BRITON FERRY ATHLETIC.

STOP PRESS'. The Welsh FA met on June 5th and refused permission for BARRY TOWN

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LEO'S LINES



A review of the interesting non-league stories during the past month . . . by LEO HOENIG

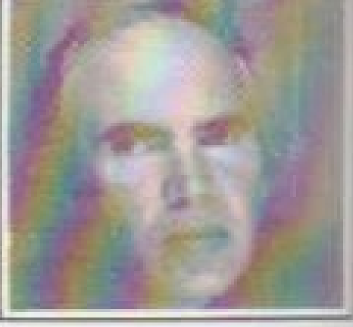
The idea of the pyramid to guide promotions and relegations amoung the leagues is to control movements, and make it all easier to understand. So, is there anyone out there that can understand it all ?, if so just drop a line to someone at the F.A. Meanwhile let's have a look at some of the movements for this close season. Most straight-forward of all, is at the very top, where Maidstone United exchanged their GMVC place for Darlington's position in the Football League. Aylesbury United and Weymouth were both relegated from the GMVC; with Aylesbury United going into the Vauxhall League (hereinafter shortened to VL), and Weymouth dropping to the Beazer Homes League. Looking at the BHL, the internal movements are simple enough with three of the clubs relegated from the Premier Division (Leicester, Redditch and Bedworth United) going to the Midland Division, and Fareham Town dropping to the Southern. The Champions (Gloucester City and Chelmsford City), and runners-up (Atherstone United and Gravesend & Northfleet) of the regional divisions were all promoted. The BHL also kept to the spirit of the pyramid in letting all four of it's bottom clubs be relegated. Wellingborough will now compete in the UCL, Mile Oak in the Midland Comb, while Ruislip drop to the Federated Homes League and Tonbridge to the Kent League. The promoted teams are Yate Town, Bashley, Hythe Town and Racing Club (Warwick). The first three, champions respectively of the FHL, Wessex and Kent Leagues will play in the Southern Division, whereas Racing, who finished runners-up in the Mid Comb, naturally move to the Midland Division. No place could be found for Barry Town, the Welsh League champions, who had finally been given permission to apply to return to the BHL by the FA of Wales. The FAW had refused Barry permission when there had been vacancies to chase in the BHL. Barry can now only move upwards by first joining a feeder league, and so they applied, and were accepted by the Federated Homes League. The FAW, in their infinite wisdom have again stepped in to deny Barry their ambitions. While at least this move had some logic to it, the other side accepted direct to the Premier is another matter, as Newport AFC, do not, as yet exist. The club is being formed to replace Newport County, and supposedly have the resourses to sign John Relish as manager and start recruiting players. In order to get around the obstacles provided by the FAW, they will play (if they play) at Moreton Town, and affiliate to the Glos FA. Another exciting episode of the Newport County story is featured before the end of this article. Wallingford Town and Viking Sports were relegated in the FHL, while Almondsbury and Headington were promoted. In the lower division, the league is also attempting to add two new sides, and again they may find it difficult. The definate new side is Milton United (ex of the N Berks League), whereas Cinderford Town, from the Glos County League have also been elected. Cinderford's move is opposed by their League, and by the Glos FA. If they don't lose Cinderford Town, the Gloucestershire League will keep it's numbers even by relegating Brimscombe and Hanham, and promoting Berkeley Town and St Phillips Marsh Adult School. Moving around the BHL feeders we find no change at all in the makeup of the GM Western League, and as far as I know, only the exchange of clubs with the BHL for the Kent League. In Sussex, it is straight forward 2up, 2 down between the top divisions, with Seaford and Ringmer promoted, while Division 2 takes Oakwood and Portfield, plus Saltdean, Stamco and Franklands Village from division 3. Only East Grinstead are relegated to div 3, whereas Lingfield (bottom again) and Midway leave the league. The new sides are Buxstead (Mid Sussex champions), Withdean (Brighton League, a reformation of Westdene, who were dropped from the County League not so long ago) and Town Mead (Crawley League). The Wessex League has accepted three new sides, all subject to them doing improvement work in time. These are BAT (Hampshire League champions), Bemerton ATHletic (Wilts) and Fleet Town. Since the demise of the Athenian League, Fleet have been going from one failure to another, with no revival in fortunes in either the Combined Counties or Chiltonian Leagues, so with this known the Wessex's Leagues decision looks like madness, designed only to ensure Brockenhurst do not finish in last place. With BAT moving on, and already a vacancy in the Hampshire Leagues top division, only Basing Rovers were relegated, while the IOW pair of Ryde Sports and Cowes SPorts both move up, as do AC Delco. Bottom club Warsash exchange places with Southampton League champions Nutfield, and a place has also been found for Verwood, from the Bournemouth League. In the East, the termination of the first season of a two division Jewson Eastern League, sees two up, and two down in operation, with Wroxham and Halstead, seperated only by goal difference promoted. Soham Town and Ely take the drop. Three new clubs are Cornard United (Essex and Suffolk

Borders), Woodbridge Town (Suffolk & Ipswich) and Norwich United (Anglian). Those of you with particular feeling for clubs moving grounds may like to keep an eye on Woodbridge, who are supposedly moving in one season. The UCL gains Wellingborough, and also admits Daventry Town at the other end, while the only internal movement is to promote Burton Park Wanderers (Div 1 runners-up). The Division One Champions, Ramsey Town, are again refused promotion, due to non availability of the pitch (they share with a cricket side) at the start of the season. Ramsey, unhappy with this situation have been trying to escape to the East (ie Jewson League), but, in keeping with the spirit of this article, the UCL have refused to release them. I asked the Secretary of the Jewson Eastern League if the problem of pitch availability would surely be a hinderence in their League as well, but he said no - they'd just have to start with away matches. Meanwhile, if I am to understand the West Midlands correctly (and let's hope I'm wrong), there has been no internal promotion and relegation at all in the Banks's Brewery League. Aero Lucas, and Tamworth reserves part company with the league while the only new side is Wem Town from Shropshire. No such simplicity in the Midland Combination, where apart from the exchange with the BBL, the Premier Division gains Stapenhill from the Leics. League and promote both Bloxwich Town (formerly AFC) and Streetly Celtic with only Shirley Town relegated. A repreive here for Solihull Borough, but not for their Widney Stadium, which has been sold off. Solihull will share with Moor Green while they look for a new stadium. Some of the proceeds of selling their stadium have been left in trust with the council to build the new stadium once a sight is found; but of course, it was this very council that have found objections to all previously proposed sites. Both the bottom two clubs in division one (Solihull reserves and Shelfield United) have resigned, whereas Alcester Town are relegated, apparently by request. This allows Stapenhill reserves to move direct to Division One, and for six sides to be promoted. Champions Upton Town being joined by Wellesbourne (2), Studley BKL (3), Southam United (4), Handrahan Timbers (7) and Kings Heath res (8). There are 8 new sides in Archdales, Becketts Sports, Emerald Social, Greenway Sports, Hams Hall, Kenilworth Rangers, Pershore Town and Thimblemill. The only one I know anything about are Pershore, which I believe to be a merger a two or three teams, playing on the floodlit ground in the Worcestershire Town.

In the North, the HFS Loans League has, of course not gained a side from the GMVC, but still have had Barrow move up, so only Worksop are relegated from the Premier - they too will probably be sharing grounds next season, but no one knows where (possibly Gainsborough, but then what happens to the Town side in the CML?). Colne Dynamoes, and Bishop Auckland are promoted, while Sutton Town lose their place in the league, to allow both Rossendale and Emley promotion. The Bass North West Counties League accepts no new sides this season, but only Ellesmere Port, who resigned at the end of last season leave. In the Northern Counties (East), Sutton Town will be joined in the Premier Divsion by Sheffield (promoted) and North Shields (from the SKol Northern League) if the latter can get around the fact that the SNL are disputing the move, saying they had not al resigned in time. Am I getting repetitive with this tale ? Two Up and Two Down between divisions one and two of the NCE (Ossett T, Liversedge Up; Bradley and Pilkington down), and no opposition (shock horror) as Long Eaton United switch to the Central Midlands League. Other new sides in the Supreme Division are Hucknell Town (Notts) and Bradford Park Avenue. The latter, a reformed club bearing only the name in common with the ex League side are elected to the top section, as it is the only possibility after their tremendous season in the West Riding County Amateur Division Three (I think they came third). BPA will play at Bramley RLFC, which has floodlights, so that is OK then, isn't it. Meanwhile Arnold have amalgamated with Kingswell to form Arnold Town, and Grimsby Ross are to change their name to Grimsby Borough and move to the King George V Athletics Stadium. Those of you familiar with Lincolnshire Football may remember that in recent years, both Grimsby Amateurs and Grimsby AThletic have moved to this stadium, but as yet no match has been played there. Still the ground has floodlights (on the running track only), so that is OK then, isn't it. At lower levels, three other sides have been elected to the CML. These are Lincoln Morlands (a new club, so I think they'll be in the Premier), plus Mackworth United and Glapwell (who both already exist, so it's division one for them). MW Teversal become Teversall Grange, and Station are renamed Rossington Haslam after their sponsor. In the course of my conversation with Mr Harwood, he put the case for the CML to be given equal status with the NCE and NWC as feeders to the pyramid. This is based on the fact that it is the only league in the area, now that all but two of the areas clubs have either joined it, or the HFS loans league. Evantually, if the league wants to join in the pyramid, then it must be permitted to do so - it is only the status of the league which is in doubt, and I cannot find reason in my heart to place Boston FC on an equal footing with Emley only two years after they could not even complete their fixtures, while a small smattering of sucess in the Lincs Senior 'A' cup does not conterbalance

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The TONY MIDDLETON Column



THE MONTHLY COLUMN FOR ALL HOPPERS

PROGRAMMES - VARIATION ON A THEME

I don't worry me too much if a club does not produce a programme. The important thing is that I have been to the ground. But if the choice is between a club who has a programme and one who does not, then nine times out of ten I will choose the former. There is one increasing trend in non league circles that I dislike intensely, and that is when someone produces a programme to mark his own visit to a ground. If he does it just to give himself a souvenir, that is up to him. But when that same egomaniac proudly announces to all and sundry that a programme will be issued for a certain match, I only wish he would qualify it and say that it is to mark his own regal presence, and for no useful purpose.

I had to endure an example of this not all that long ago, when said originator of paper trash majestically paraded himself up and down the touchline, in shades and white spats, no doubt to build up tension, before strutting up to the poor bewieldered home secretary, and presenting him with a handful of single sheet collectables, and not enough to go round. Harmless enough in its own way, but memories soon fade, and it was not long before those same easily-photocopiable items appeared on offers lists, passed off as genuine.

I know of one non league follower who, if there is no programme at a match he attends, will print up one for himself. He does not pass it off as genuine and if anyone wants a copy he makes it quite clear that it is nothing more than a personal souvenir of the game. Even so he came in for a lot of unfair criticism when he did this after a match at Chipperfield earlier in the season.

I really dislike the trend to produce a one-off for some nondescript match, sell the odd one or two at the ground, and then rake in the profit by advertising the leftovers at exorbitant prices. The problem here is that I can never be certain if the programme is a one-off or a regular issue, and this trend is becoming increasingly common.

There are always exceptions to any rule, and I was very impressed with John Stancome's productions for Royal George and Metrogas. John was asked to produce a programme for these games, and I was pleasantly surprised to find that the profit he made went immediately to the clubs in question. Moreover the programmes themselves were well designed and a credit to the clubs concerned.

I never take any notice of the programme awards at the end of the season. I know too many programme editors who make a special effort on just one programme and send this up. I have even been to three grounds, where the club has featured high up in the awards, and found that they did not issue a programme on a regular basis. I had to laugh last season when my own club finished up in something like 200th place. We didn't even submit an entry. More to the point, our programme is primarily produced for our supporters to read at the match, and is never intended to win any useless awards. (Unfortunately our supporters don't think much of them either.)

Overall I have become very disillusioned with non league programmes this season, as it is next to impossible at times to differentiate between the genuine regular issue and the rip-off one-off. I would be interested to know what other collectors think.

WE SOON FORGET

It has always been a tradition in England that first past the post is the winner. But not any more. The play offs have changed all that. Finance

is the reason. They make money, and are therefore good, whether they are fair or not. I have always stayed away, but was finally lured to Orient to see them play Scarborough. The previous day I had watched the cup final on video, and saw the Merseyside supporters run onto the pitch when Everton levelled, and again at the end. Nothing too startling, but we soon heard that this had convinced the Wembley authorities to re-erect the cages. How long ago was it that they were taken down, in order to prevent another Hillsborough. Less than a month. All it needed was a paltry excuse to put them back again.

What had this got to do with me going to Orient. Not a lot really, except I was able to see for myself just how ridiculous the members scheme is, and just how bigotted clubs are towards cages. It was obvious that there would be a good crowd in attendance. The official figure was 9,298, plus those who got in unofficially (that is not too difficult at Orient.) But, to set the scene, the main stand is half members, and half open to all comers, as is the enclosure in front of it. Opposite, the all seated west side is members only. Behind one goal is members only, and the other end is for visitors. I arrived an hour early, and watched from the stand as the crowd gathered.

The cages at the members end had been removed, but were still in place at the away end. Well, I suppose that makes sense. After all, what does it matter if a few visiting supporters get crushed, they only come once a year anyway. I could only see one gate, and this was locked. The steward took just under thirty seconds to unlock it when required to. Opposite, the members stand was nowhere near full, and the members end was near deserted. Scarborough brought only five coaches, (they used to take more than that in their non-league days,) and their end was only lightly populated. So where was the nine thousand plus. All were herded like sardines in the non-members areas. The main stand was packed. The enclosure in front was full to overflowing well before the kick off. The ground had a lop sided look, the two ends near empty, the members stand only part full, and the main stand side jam packed.

Fifteen minutes before the kick off there was no more room, but still they came in, oblivious to the fact that they had no chance of seeing the match until they set foot on the terrace. Kids were sitting along the low wall down that side, which meant that anyone in the rows immediately behind had no hope of seeing over them. The obvious solution was to let the crowd move round into the near empty areas behind the goals, but the stewards only allowed a few to do this, until, finally, twenty minutes into the match, the police took several hundred out, marched them behind the stand, and let them in at the members end. About time too. Orient have to set aside 50% of their ground for members, by political decree, so I cannot blame the O's. But for how much longer will the casual supporter put up with being herded into the few remaining areas. And why are the cages still up at the away end. Then again, if some prominent big-mouths get their way, their will be no away supporters anyway. Come to think of it, I won't be able to go either, if the I/D scheme comes into being, so why should I care.

STABBED IN THE BACK

I dislike ground sharing. Whatever way you look at it, one set of supporters no longer has a local team to support, unless they are prepared to make an unncessary journey to their club's new temporary home. Look at the recent list. Maidstone to Dartford. I am sure that makes a lot of

Continued on page 31

THIS MONTH'S COVER

This month's front cover features an excellent shot of the Broadbridge Heath Sports Centre. Broadbridge Heath are in the Sussex County League Div. 2. *Photo: D.R.West.*

COMING NEXT MONTH

GOOD NEWS

GROUND-HOPPER Magazine

SENSATIONAL 40-PAGE "NEW LOOK" ISSUE!!!!

From next month, there will be even more news and features, more photos, more letters, more articles, more club focuses, more news from the programme scene, in fact MORE of everything. And there will be MORE COLOUR!

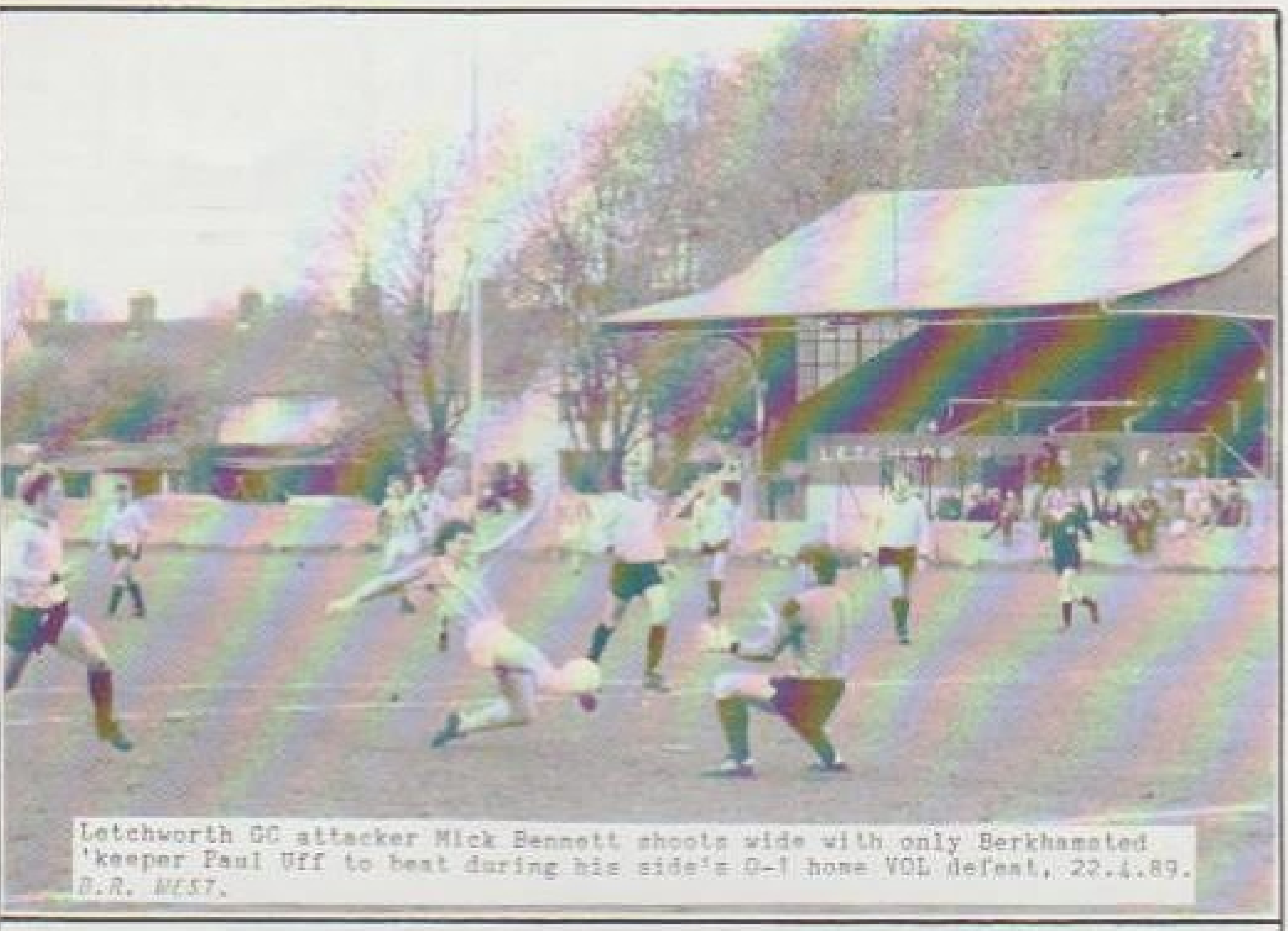
* Starting next month! 4-page pull-out on a non-league club containing photos of the ground, basic information, programme details, how to get there, where to eat and drink in the town, etc. The first in the new series is on Jewson Eastern League club NEWMARKET TOWN. Don't miss it!
* Special feature on HYTHE TOWN's rapid rise, and the excellent ground now in shape ready for their first season of Beazer Homes League football.
* Many new features and a great new-style competition with MORE prizes to win!
* Features on CANNOCK CHASE, BARROW and PRINCES END UNITED.
* New-look Newsdesk, Club Shop Review, Hoppers Post, more photos of grounds and action shots, and all the latest news about the FA Competitions with the draws in full.
* And starting next month : THE BEST OF THE WEST, a new monthly column giving you all the latest news from Devon, Cornwall and the West Country, including Club Focuses, programme spots, news, photos, etc. It will be exclusive to *GROUNDHOPPER'S MAGAZINE* and it starts next month.
* And there will be more colour throughout the magazine. And it's still only £1

So look out for the bumper SEPTEMBER issue. It will be bigger and brighter than ever, and even better value for money.

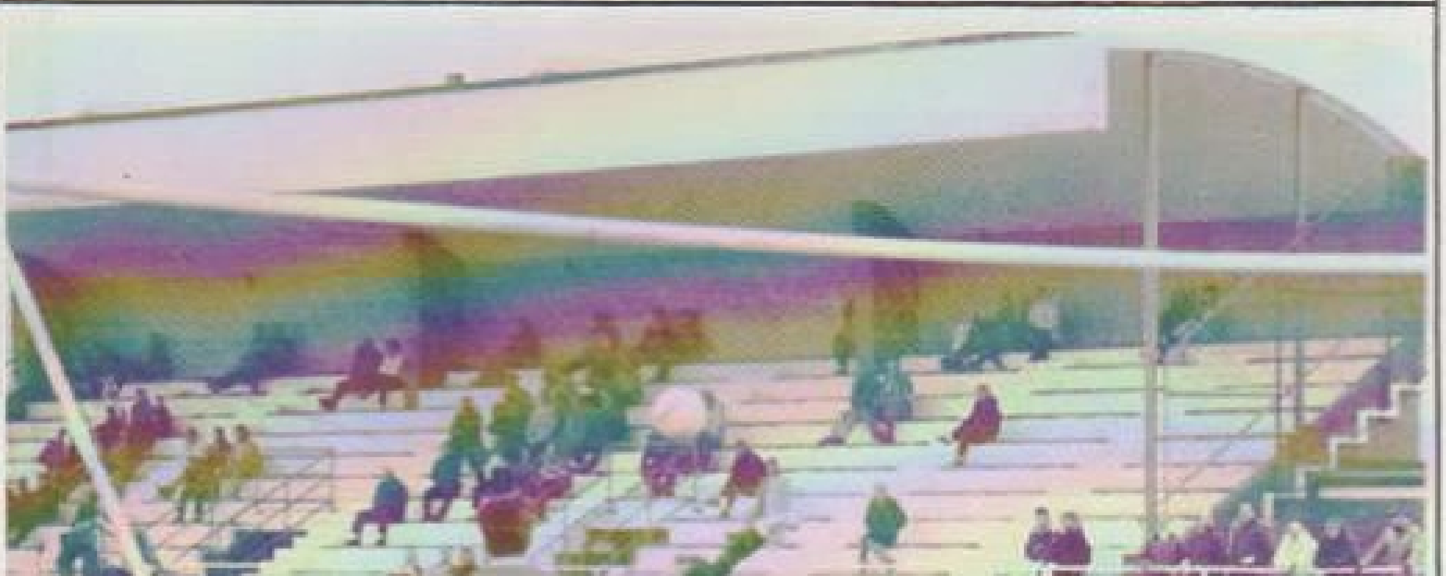
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Letchworth GC attacker Mick Bennett shoots wide with only Berkhamsted 'keeper Paul Uff to beat during his side's 0-1 home VOL defeat, 22.4.89. *D.R. WEST.*



A Bury Town forward hooks his shot over the bar during his side's 2-0 win at Ford Utd in FA Vase on 26.11.88. *D.R. WEST.*

LEO'S LINES (from page 7)

the NCE's FA Vase record. I also could not take seriously the allegation that the NCE are trying to poach clubs from the CML - which clubs, and why ? Does the NCE really want clubs that thought an hours travelling on the M1 was too far, or do they want say Crookes, rejected by them two seasons ago due to lack of facilities. Even when it was rumoured last season that Harworth CI were about to step back to the NCE, all I could get from the NCE was that no approach had been made (by Harworth), so they were assuming that Harworth were not interested, and anyway they could only possibly come in at Divsion Two. Still, they have floodlights, the dressing rooms are only 200 yeards from the pitch, and they hope to build a stand; so that is OK then isn't it.

What was the Vauxhall-Opel League has become a limited company (the only one in non-League Football), and now is The Isthmian League Ltd, trading as the Vauxhall League. They have just about managed to fill their three vacancies, caused by the dismissal (at the start of the season) of Haringey Borough, the resignation of Oxford City, and the expulsion (at the end of the season) of Wolverton Town (MK). Wolverton Town, I suppose, got what was coming to them as naughty boys, not only playing ringers, but continually getting caught. A total of nine points were deducted, but they would have finished bottom by a good margin anyway. In addition, the league has fined them considerably - although I doubt if they will see all the money, as Wolves have now disbanded. At the top, Farnborough Town move to the GMVC, and are replaced by Aylesbury, whereas the new clubs are Abingdon Town, Malden Vale and Newport County (See, I said they would crop up again). Newport, in this case need permission from both the FAW and the liquidator, being the original club, and although Jerry Sherman was quoted on the Teletext as saying that this decision will save the club, I hope they are not waiting for him to put in some money. If they take their place, it will be in Divsion Two (South) (with all the other newcomers), and I can't wait to see them play a night game at Eastbourne in front of less than 100 spectators. The other major change in the VL is that Leytonstone /Ilford become Redbridge Forest, and despite not gaining admission to the GMVC, they have sold up Green Pond Road, and are moving in to Dagenham. Do I hear a quaking Dagenham supporter - is this the end for Daggers ? To recap, Ilford FC moved to Leytonstone, and later merged to form Leytonstone /Ilford. Leytonstone /Ilford moved to Walthamstow Avenue, and later merged, to form Leytonstone /Ilford (again). Leytonstone /Ilford changed their name to Redbridge Forest, and moved to Dagenham. Now if only Ilford AFC (London Spartan) can find themselves a proper ground, then perhaps a merged Redbridge /Dagenham could move there, thus squaring the circle; or do Barking want to join the game ? West Essex Allteams prehaps ? That's all for now, as Leyton-Wingate are hoping not to get thrown in here. See you all next month.

WELSH RABBIT (from page 5)

and NEWPORT AFC to join the Hellenic League stating that it would not be in the best interests of Welsh soccer. I don't know which I find sadder, the fact that clubs need to move sideways out of Wales to advance up the pyramid, or the parochial thinking which blocks their way when they try.
The Hellenic League have, incidentally, accepted Newport AFC for next season, with plans for the new club to groundshare with Moreton Town, who are based over 50 miles away from the Gwent town in Gloucestershire.



Merthyr players celebrate Paul Giles' goal v. Crawley which secured promotion to the GMVC.



THE EASTERN SCENE

with PADDY LILLISTONE

A news round-up from East Anglia and the surrounding areas

This being my last column, having decided to stand down and let someone else have a go, it is fitting to be able to wind up with a report of Suffolk's finest hour in non-league football, the appearance of SUDBURY TOWN in the FA Vase final.

East Anglian folk are not normally known for their outgoing nature, but when they do have something to celebrate as they did in '78 when Ipswich reached the FA Cup Final, they like to make the most of the occasion and really let their hair down, and it was in this frame of mind that the West Suffolk town approached its big day.

With the town centre decked out in yellow and blue, the team did a quick tour and received a rousing send off from what seemed to be its entire population. Arriving at Wembley it was soon obvious that the 18,000 crowd record would be smashed with the red of Tamworth mixing in friendly rivalry with Sudbury's blue and yellow. (In fact, the final figure of 26,000 also eclipsed the FA Trophy attendance). In perfect sunshine, Sudbury immediately took the initiative, scoring after only seven minutes through Dave Hubbick and maintaining the advantage until half-time. The midlanders came out after the interval in a more determined mood and it was their turn to look the more dangerous side, and it was no surprise when they equalised near the end. Extra time stayed goalless and at the finish the overwhelming feeling was that we had seen a match of quality far exceeding what most people would expect from a non-league match.

After a night in London, Sudbury returned home to a civic reception which saw, what appeared to be, the whole town out on the streets to greet their heroes. Wednesday night saw us off to the less glamorous surroundings of Peterborough and this time Tamworth were well on top and won easily by 3-0, in front of another fine crowd of 11,000. There were some broken hearts that night, for they had gone so close at Wembley to victory, but on looking back it was a splendid performance by both sides.

As a postscript, Sudbury picked themselves up by the following Saturday to defeat their neighbours Bury Town to clinch the Suffolk Premier Cup and later pip Braintree to the Jewson League title.

Programme Spot

Here is a rare one for collectors, that of Suffolk & Ipswich League Division One BRAMFORD ROAD OLD BOYS. Printed in black on white, it has 16 pages, six being adverts, but the quality for such a small club is very good and well worth adding to your collection.

Copies can be obtained from Paul Deacon, 12 Egglestone Close, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 9SR and as it is unpriced, an A4 SAE will probably suffice.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Jewson League CLACTON TOWN were runners-up in the National Programme Award to Selsey. They also won the Jewson League section with GORLESTON in second place. In the Anglian Combination, HORSFORD UNITED and NORWICH UNITED tied for first place, whilst in the Suffolk & Ipswich League, STONHAM ASPAL topped the section by 31 points in their first season of issuing.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

London based Tom Tomaun was runner up in Britain's "Football Fan of the Year" award. Tom, who is paralysed from the chest down, follows Ipswich Town home and away and when Town players heard of his dedication they clubbed together to pay for a year's rail pass.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

CHELMSFORD CITY are commencing a total rebuilding programme at their New Writtle Street stadium involving the moving of their pitch by 90°.

REMEMBER : IF SENDING IN PHOTOGRAPHS FOR PUBLICATION, PLEASE INDICATE CLEARLY WHETHER OR NOT YOU REQUIRE THEM BACK.

SMALL ADS

Each month in *Groundhopper Magazine*, we are offering readers the chance to advertise in our Classifieds Section of the magazine. If you require or wish to sell programmes, etc., drop us a line with the details (maximum 50 words in advert) by the end of the month to be guaranteed inclusion in the next issue. Space is very limited, so it will be on a first come, first served basis, and the advert will only appear for one issue. Programme Dealers are excluded from this offer, small ads are for private use only. Write to: Groundhopper Magazine Small Ads, 439 Merton Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 5LB. Some ads may be held over due to shortage of space.

* SOUTHWICK FC end of season facts, 1st, Reserves and Youth Teams, any league tables. Send 9 x 6 envelope and stamp for free copy.
DAVE BULL, 20 WILFRID ROAD, HOVE, EAST SUSSEX, BN3 7FC.

* REQUIRED URGENTLY! Rare or unusual non-league programmes, especially from clubs who only issue occasionally or for one-off games. Excellent prices paid for your programmes. Please send list and prices to:-
STEVE KING, 439 MERTON ROAD, WANDSWORTH, LONDON, SW18 5LB.

* LAPELS : over 150 non-league badges on my current list. Send large SAE to me. Quotes available to make your club a new badge too.
TOBY JACKSON, 25 TULIP COURT, NURSERY ROAD, PINNER, MIDDX, HA5 2AP.

* BRAINTREE COUNCIL FC issued their first ever programme for their last ever game prior to changing their name to Braintree Sporting FC. All proceeds to go to the Hillsborough Disaster Fund. Copies available from me at 30p each + A5 SAE.
JON WEAVER, 31 JOHN ENGLISH AVENUE, BRAINTREE, ESSEX, CM7 7SW.

* I am compiling a Welsh Football Club Directory and require information and statistical assistance. Can anybody help me? I have just finished another book, African Football Handbook.
MEL THOMAS, 18 Y SGWAR, BLAENAU FFESTINIOG, GWYNEDD, LL41 3UL, CYMRU.

* NCE Programme of the Year - Selby Town FC. Last season's back copies only 10p each + SAE, 1989-90 issues 25p, subscription details from:-
S PENNY, 22 HELMSLEY GROVE, WIGGINTON, YORK, YO3 8QD.

* BRAINTREE TOWN FC Club Shop - catalogue of 1988-89 league and non-league programmes now available - all at reduced prices. Older minor league & handbooks also listed. SAE secures.
JON WEAVER, 31 JOHN ENGLISH AVENUE, BRAINTREE, ESSEX, CM7 7SW.

* I VISIT Stalybridge Celtic, Hyde Utd, Ashton Utd, Droylsden and Emley during the season. I would like to exchange programmes with someone doing likewise in another area. Please write to:-
PETER IRVING, 39 WARNEFORD ROAD, COWLERSLEY, HUDDERSFIELD, WEST YORKS, HD4 5TW.

* MORECAMBE FC Yearbook 1988-89, 1st ever issue now out. 40 glossy pages, history, photos, etc. Great value at £2 (post free).
PAUL OLDRIEVE, 13 LONGLANDS AVENUE, HEYSHAM, LANCS, LA3 2NU.

* NON-LEAGUE programmes required from Ireland, Scotland, Wales (outside Welsh League, Nat. Div), Channel Islands, I.O.M, English Regional and County Leagues (mainly lower division of Jewson, Eastern, Banks Brewery, Great Mills, UCL, Mid. Comb. and Northern) plus ladies, Sunday and School clubs. Write with details and prices to:-
JOHN JOYCE, 2 THE CHASE, WALLINGTON, SURREY, SM6 8NE.

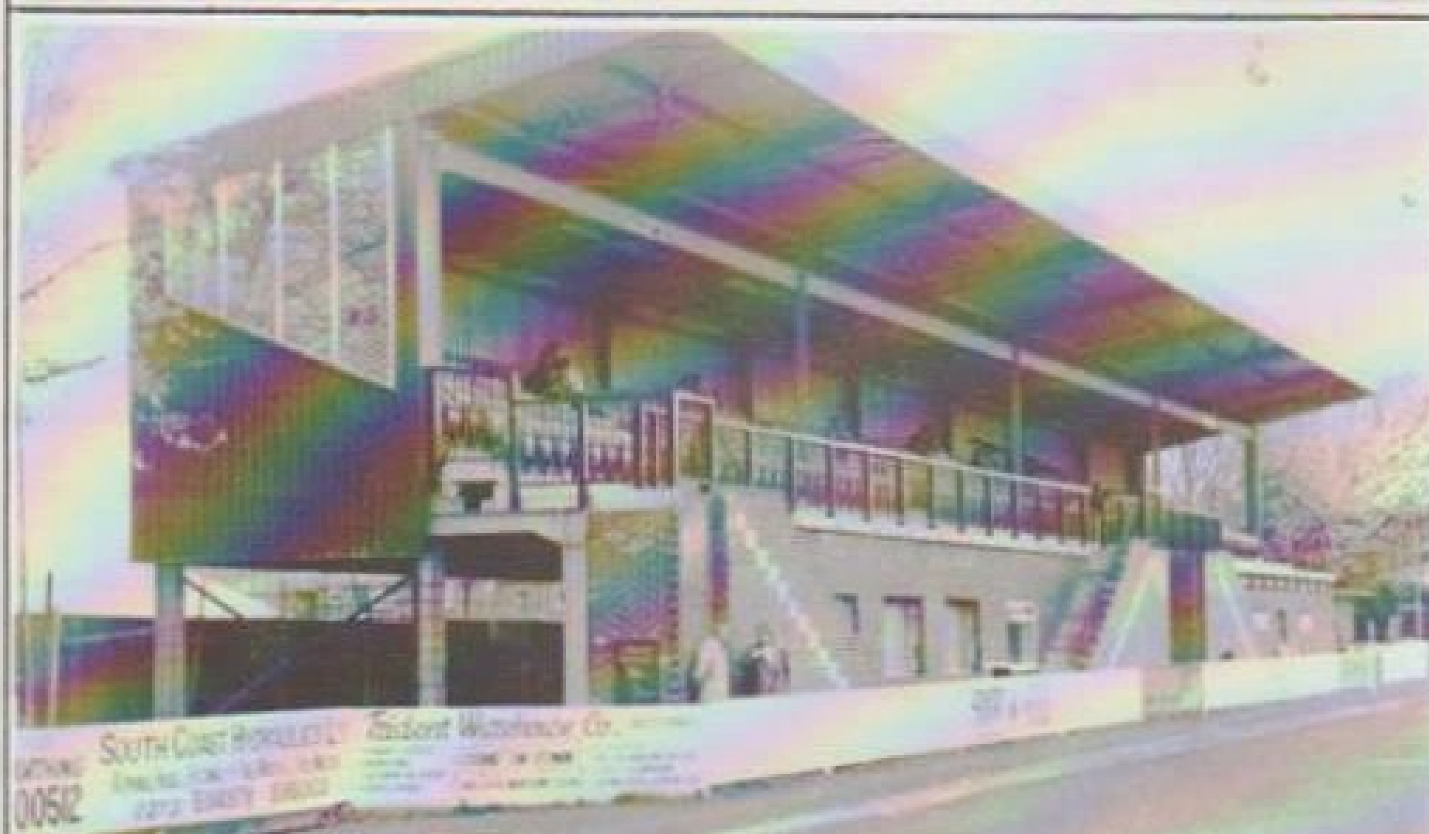
* EXCHANGE Star + Crescent FC (Gosport) v. Portsmouth ex-professionals 1988-89 first-ever programme, for any Newport County 1988-89 homes.
TONY VALVONA, DAGOSTINOS, 6 CHARLOTTE STREET, PORTSMOUTH, HANTS, PO1 4AJ.

* WANTED : The following Weymouth 'away' programmes: 1987-88 Lincoln City, Holt Utd (D.S.C) 1986-87 Northwich Victoria 1985-86 Stafford Rangers, Telford Utd, St. Pauls (D.S.C), Bath City, Northwich Victoria, Sturminster Newton (D.S.C), Maidstone Utd (FATrophy). 1984-85 Worcester City. Top Prices Paid.
MARK RICHARDS, 52 MEADOW VIEW, CHARMINSTER, NR. DORCHESTER, DORSET, DT2 9RE.

- GROUNDS IN FOCUS -



NEWHAVEN (SUSSEX COUNTY LGE DIV. 2) *D.R. WEST.*



WORTHING (VAUXHALL-OPEL LEAGUE) *D.R. WEST.*



LIFE WITHOUT MANGOTSFIELD UNITED F.C.
($2\frac{1}{2}$ YEARS OF SOCCER IN CORNWALL)

By GRAHAM MILLS

I began working in Penzance in January of 1986. Promotion with my job for W.H. Smith entailed this long trip westwards. Upon investigation I found that Penzance AFC were languishing at the foot of the South Western League. My first look at the ground was late one night when on a pub crawl of the town, Phil, who also works for W.H. Smith, took me to the clubhouse. It was a very professional set up and the ground was far superior to many Western League clubs that I could mention.

The fortunes of the team, however, weren't quite so good, and having to rely on purely local, unpaid talent it was difficult to compete with semi-professional clubs such as Falmouth and Newquay. My trips to watch Mangotsfield were limited to games at Liskeard, Saltash and Plymouth (all journeys taking at least ninety minutes), so I satisfied myself watching Penzance at home. The season ended without me having witnessed a victory.

During the close season I was encouraged to start football training with local team Ludgvan. It was after watching one of their matches on a dark Saturday in November that the local news came over in the clubhouse. JEWSON SOUTH WESTERN LEAGUE : St. Blazey 1, PENZANCE 3. St. Blazey hadn't lost at home all season and Penzance hadn't won at all. It was a major shock. Needless to say this joy wasn't to last, because it took until April for Penzance to win their first home league match of the season!!

From then on, I grew to feel an identity with Penzance and I began watching them with a passion that can only be developed over years of supporting your home team (in my case Bristol Rovers). It was the feeling of always being underdogs and the fact that when the team wins, we'll be there that encouraged Phil and I to go to every game last season, work permitting.

Exact dates and facts elude me now as on occasions when the team won we certainly painted the town red (or was it black and white?). There's the time Phil and I travelled to Clyst at Exeter, well over 100 miles away. Upon arrival at the ground we found the only people present from Penzance were the team, the manager Jim Dann, who drove the mini-bus. We approached Jim at the edge of the pitch, just as the game was about to start, and unfortunately there was no-one to "run the line" for Penzance so I volunteered in the nick of time.

I was relieved to have an easy game and only one or two decisions to make. I can remember the score standing at 3-2 to Clyst with seconds remaining as Penzance launched another attack. The ball entered the penalty area, then in the ensuing scramble the 'keeper, a defender or two, a Penzance forward, and more importantly, the ball, found its way into the back of the net. Surprisingly, the goal was allowed to stand as a foul had looked certain, and Penzance came away with a point.

There were many, far too many, low points watching the team play away, and the 0-7 defeat at Bugle was one of those occasions. Defeats at Bodmin, Wadebridge, St. Blazey, Torpoint and Newton Abbot all spring to mind. I can remember travelling to Newton Abbot, another 100+ mile journey, on a grey, miserable Grand National day in fact. The pitch was exposed and the facilities were spartan, the changing rooms consisting of an old wooden building and there was no

clubhouse. A turnout similar to the one at Clyst watched in frustration as a 2-1 lead turned into a 3-4 reverse.
One of the more enjoyable days out involved the short trip to Falmouth just a week before they played at Mangotsfield in the FA Vase. Falmouth were top of the table and unbeaten at home for years. A large crowd witnessed a brave battle as Penzance chased and challenged for every ball. As Falmouth attacked they hit the woodwork many times. Eventually, Penzance's luck gave way and Falmouth scored just the one goal. It was a performance that earned them a lot of respect which was certainly evident from the Falmouth contingent in the bar afterwards.
One of the highlights of the season was a weekend double fixture; having to play Weston Mill (a Plymouth team) on the Saturday and Holsworthy (in North Cornwall) on the Sunday. Points were urgently needed to pull away from the depths of the table in this, Penzance's centenary year. After booking into a Plymouth hotel, a large group of players, wives, girlfriends, officials and supporters, made their way in two minbuses to the ground of Weston Mill, or Oak Villa to give them their full name.

There were magnificent views across the river Tamar from the exposed pitch but even more magnificent was the 3-1 scoreline in favour of Penzance. We certainly hit the town that night and celebrations went on 'til the early hours.
The following day after breakfast, the mini-buses were loaded and we headed for Holsworthy for a dinner time kick-off. Another two points would see Penzance safe from a re-election position as Holsworthy were below them in the table. Despite many of the team suffering from hangovers, a 3-1 victory was gained. That prompted many a joke about having a night on the town before every game. A most enjoyable weekend indeed.
The highlight of the year though was undoubtedly the visit of Liverpool in August. Although the team was a reserve outfit, including former Mangotsfield defender Nicky Tanner, a crowd of 5,000 were attracted to a newly painted Penlee Park. It was a fine summers evening and the setting was perfect. Liverpool inevitably ran out 6-0 winners but Penzance squandered an excellent opportunity when a penalty was saved by Hooper and the follow up was put wide with the goalkeeper stranded and the net (and glory) beckoning. It was a great occasion attended by the legendary Bob Paisley. I shall never forget as a crowd of autograph hunting youngsters crowded around him; an orderly queue was formed and he patiently signed each young fan's book, programme or scrap of paper. The evening was rounded off by a buffet meal and reception at the Queens Hotel situated on the promenade.
These are just a few of the highlights, and lowlights, of watching Penzance during the last 2½ years. It was through reading the Mangotsfield programme that started me thinking of the grounds I had visited and the games I had seen. There is a great deal of enjoyment to be had from supporting a non-league side, hence my return visits to watch Mangotsfield when the chance arises.
Although I understand that you may not be able to print this, I hope your readers enjoy it if published, and who knows - in two years time I may well be writing about football in East England for example - another two years of life without Mangotsfield!
DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF ENJOYABLE GROUNDHOPPING TRIPS? PERHAPS A WEEKEND WHERE YOU VISITED A PLEASANT PART OF THE COUNTRY FOR A COUPLE OF MATCHES? WRITE AND TELL US ABOUT IT! WE WILL PUBLISH THOSE THAT ARE INTERESTING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

GROUND-HOPPER Magazine

THE 4 SIDES OF....













SPALDING UTD

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE MID-LAND DIVISION

MY 10 FAVOURITE GROUNDS
VISITED IN NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

This month: MICHAEL REEVES (LOWESTOFT)

Yes, this popular series is back where we invite our readers to send in articles for this page, listing their ten favourite non-league grounds, and the reasons for their choices. Do you have particular favourites? Any great memories from visits to non-league grounds? If so, why not drop us a line and take part in this column. This month, MICHAEL REEVE of LOWESTOFT tells us about his ten favourite non-league grounds....

1. SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN : This neat, compact ground in rural South West Essex offers a very pleasant day out in the town before setting out for the club. The church overlooks Catons Lane standing like a sentinal. A small stand along one side and a concrete walkway round the ground keeps it looking prim and proper. A welcome is always guaranteed from everyone at Catons Lane.

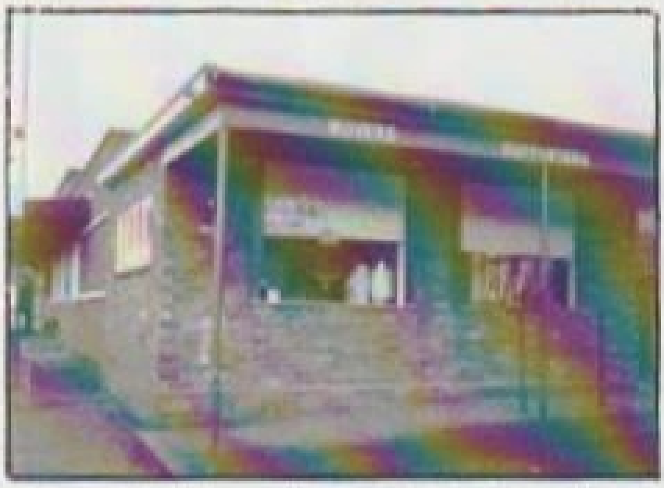
2. HALSTEAD TOWN : Reached from the south of the town down a small lane between two buildings, Rosemary's Lane has a very pleasant atmosphere. The large grandstand is somewhat uncomfortable to the posterior and a cushion is advisable. Hamburgers are good value for money.

3. EYNESBURY ROVERS : Make your way to Hall Road via the St. Neots by-pass and Ernolf School will lead you to this open, yet excellent U.C.L. ground in the old county of Huntingdonshire. The small stand on one side also incorporates the social club. The entrance plaque tells you the ground is dedicated to a former committee man and he would no doubt be pleased with the progress of this club.

4. FORMBY TOWN : Having run the line on a visit to Brows Lane during a holiday I will always have an affection for this Merseyside club. Its wooden stand behind one end leaves the rest rather open to the elements. Northerners always make you welcome and this club is no exception to the rule.

5. MARINE AFC : A few miles north of Liverpool up the coast you arrive at the Merseyside suburb of Crosby, a rather select area and down the main shopping area you will find Rossett Park, home of Marine FC. The club shop is well stocked with a variety of souvenirs and the outlook from the club is always forward. The public house next to the club is full of noise and chat but mainly about Liverpool and Everton.

6. BROMSGROVE ROVERS : The Victoria Ground situated on the main road close to the town centre has seen great progress over the last few years and with a positive outlook, the Rovers could find themselves as a force in the Midlands. The well stocked club shop and social club where you are always welcome are



LEFT: One of the fine tea-bars at the ground of Bromsgrove Rovers FC.

worth a visit. The neatness and tidiness around the ground speaks volumes for this ambitious club.

7. NORTHWICH VICTORIA : Having played at the Drill Field since the early days of the club's history, this club has a great tradition. To reach the ground is very convenient because it is situated in the centre of Northwich just behind the bus station. The main stand at the Drill Field also incorporates the souvenir shop where artifacts can be purchased. The well run social club is designed well and a great money-raiser for the club.

8. TIPTREE UNITED : The Jam Makers of Essex just off the A12, 10 miles south of

Colchester. At the end of the main street you will find Chapel Road, a rather small playing area but nevertheless a very good club to visit. The small stand on the right offers a little shelter but the social club is large and



RIGHT: The covered accommodation at Jewson Eastern League Tiptree Utd.

spacious and a helpful committee will make you very welcome.

9. RAMSEY TOWN : I came across the club after my original venue had been postponed through bad weather at the last minute. Cricket Field Road as its name suggests, is a large open area incorporating football and cricket. There is no seating of note. The club house is well stocked but to get a cuppa at half time can be a bit of an ordeal! Having to queue at the bar for a hot drink is no fun!

10. LOWESTOFT TOWN : Having been secretary of this club for eight years my heart will always be at Crown Meadow. The club is situated in the Roman Hill district of the town and only ¾ mile from Ness Point, the most easterly point in the UK. The playing area is one of the largest in non-league football and bigger than some Football League clubs. A large and spacious social club is available for functions. It is a pity the club's ambitions are not as big as it's facilities, being content to be a big fish in a small pond.

NEXT MONTH : ANOTHER READER TELLS US ABOUT HIS "TEN FAVOURITE NON-LEAGUE GROUNDS"

GROUNDHOPPING IN N & W SOMERSET (from page 29)

Saturday and Sunday League sides are based there. Priorswood is a north easterly district of Taunton and Priorswood Corporation Playing Field is home to Priorswood United, amongst others, of the Saturday League.

United romped to the league title in the 1988-89 season and their ground is in the middle of the housing estate in Cleve Road, and also backs onto Priorswood Road, which is opposite the Priorswood and Crown Industrial Estates. The ground has two football pitches and a car-park, and the only spectator accommodation is on a few park benches. There is also a children's play area in the ground.

The Hamilton Road playing field is a few hundred yards off the town centre. Hamilton Road joins East Reach at its west end, and this is where the town's many shops begin. The playing field boasts three football pitches and is also used for cricket.

It is a public park and also features children's playing apparatus. The field is also used by clubs such as Saturday League night club side Kingstons and Sunday outfit Dolphin Raiders. Parking space is available in Hamilton Road.

Clearly visible from the playing field is Taunton Town's impressive Wordsworth Drive ground. This is actually in Lisieux Way (Lisieux in France is Taunton's twin town), which runs parallel to Hamilton Road. The Peacocks play in the Great Mills League and their ground is still up to that standard.

There is terracing, a car-park for club officials, dressing rooms and club offices behind one goal, while on one side of the pitch is the social club and a 200 seater stand. On the far side is hard covered standing for about 1,000 people. There are advertising boards around the ground, trainers' boxes, and floodlights, while behind the covered accommodation is the main car-park. Programmes are issued for first and second team games.

Wellington, famous for the Duke of Wellington's monument which stands on a hill, floodlit at night, above the town, is about five miles south west of Taunton, quite near the Devon border. The football club play in the first division of the Great Mills League in the town's Playing Field. This is also used for rugby and cricket and the football pitch has a bad slope to it.

The Playing Field is just off North Street, which is in the town centre. In fact, the best place to park to go to a match is in the town car-park, which is signed, as this is right by the football club's entrance.

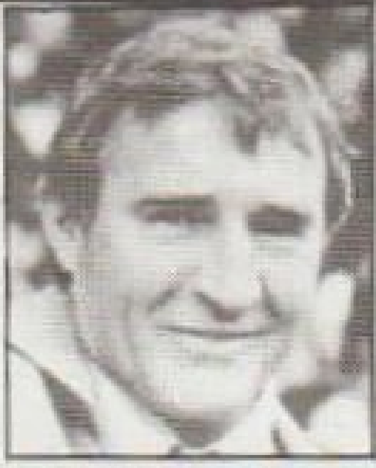
Programmes are given away with admission while the ground has floodlights. There are dressing rooms, a social club and covered accommodation, which is terraced, on one side of the pitch. And since the ground is used for cricket during the summer, the Avco Trust Somerset Cricket League (in which the cricket team play) handbook states that Wellington are the only members who can stage floodlit cricket!

Of course there are many other grounds to visit in the north and west areas of Somerset, such as Minehead Cricketers, who play at the West Somerset School in the town's Alcombe district, and Wyvern, who are based at Taunton's Wyvern Club in Mountfields Road. Both sides play in the Taunton Saturday League.

Mal's job

AMBITIOUS FISHER ATHLETIC ONTO A WORLDWIDE WINNER AS MALCOLM ALLISON RETURNS TO ENGLISH FOOTBALL!

BY STEVE KING



● Malcolm Allison

FISHER ATHLETIC have secured the most lucrative sponsorship deal in the club's history - and that could mean the start of a bright, new era for the Dockland side. North London based sports agency Winners Wordwide Ltd have all but put pen to paper in a deal that will see the wind of change blow through Salter Road. Top priority for Winners is to clear all the clubs outstanding debts and provide Fisher with the sort of financial security they have previously only been able to dream about. Money will be made available to buy players with the ultimate aim, a place in the Football League.

It all sounds too good to be true for a club that, in the words of managing director Keith Wenham, "could have folded."

Wenham is the newly appointed first full-time managing director at Salter Road, and he was the man mainly responsible for the Winners deal.

There is no doubt that the new sponsorship for Fisher is going to benefit not only the club, but the local community as well, because Winners are in negotiations with Southwark Council at the moment about purchasing the site freehold and have put in planning permission that, if accepted, could transform the Salter Road ground.

Besides building a new restaurant area and a multi-purpose gym - which would be open to the public - Winners also plan to accommodate a top grade boxing gym which would be available by members of the Fisher Boxing Club.

Southwark Council have always encouraged Fisher to develop their site, and the prospect of fine leisure facilities for the local people will surely be something they cannot overlook. Winners, who include Millwall's Terry Hurlock, and former British and Commonwealth Welterweight champion Sylvester Mittee as their clients, have just been granted a boxing licence, and there is the distinct possibility that if permission is approved, Fisher could become a stage for some of London's top bouts.

One of the directors of the North London agency is manager of chart-topping group Level 42 and the Blow Monkey's, so there is also the likelihood of pop concerts too at Salter Road.

"There is going to be so much happening down here that it is quite frightening," admitted Wenham.

"People are going to have to be looked after a little bit more than before and there should be a really good family atmosphere if it all works out.





LEFT: One of the entrances to Fisher Athletic's Dockland's stadium, now managed by Malcolm Allison.





RIGHT: The main stand at ambitious Fisher Athletic's Salter Road stadium.

"Now we are going into a professional sphere run on the lines of a Football League club. We're being backed by a large company with plenty of sporting contacts, experience and good PR. Things will change dramatically."

And the club's ambitions don't end there. Anxious Fisher Athletic officials are still waiting to hear whether Malcolm Allison has accepted the job as the club's manager. Allison spent a recent Monday afternoon looking round Salter Road, and after lengthy talks with the club's new owners, his appointment seemed a formality.

The flamboyant ex-Crystal Palace and Manchester City boss would be a great signing for Fisher as he returns to England from Portugal, because he has many contacts within the game and this could help lure some of the better players available to Salter Road in an all-out effort to get Fisher into the League.

Other names mentioned for the job at Fisher included Liam Brady, Alan Devonshire, Graham Paddon and caretaker boss Steve Bowtell.

Whoever gets the manager's job will be appointed on a full-time basis, but whoever it is will know that with the club in good hands, and ambitious for the future, their job will be made that much easier from the very start.



Broadbridge Heath take the lead during a 4-4 draw with Horsham YMCA, with YMCA 'keeper watching as the ball trickles into the net in the Sussex County League Div. 2 game. *D.R. WEST.*



Tooting's Trevor Dark (stripes) can't stop this Bromley cross during his side's 0-3 defeat at Sandy Lane in the VOL Premier Div. *D.R. WEST.*



A Portland defender clears in the Dorset Combination Cup Final held at Sherborne Town. 450 saw Shaftesbury win 3-1. *TIM LANCASTER.*



Beckenham Tn clear this attack at Met Police's Warren Sports Ground during the home side's 1-0 home Kent League win. *D.R. WEST.*



HOPPER POST

The LETTER OF THE MONTH now earns the sender a 'Groundhopper Magazine' notebook and a set of six coasters in presentation box.

*

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE *YOUR* SAY.

What do you think of the magazine? Do you have any amusing groundhopper tales? Do you have any comments about Non-League Football in general?

Write to

Hopper Post,
Groundhopper Magazine,
439 Merton Road,
Wandsworth SW18 5LB

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
I recently visited Eastbourne Town on the Saturday following the terrible events at Hillsborough and, as at every other football ground in the country, one minute of silence was observed prior to the match kicking off. However, what I felt was a particularly pleasing gesture occured on the cricket pitch adjoining, where play immediately ceased, with the cricketers and umpires lining up along the wicket facing the football field to also observe the silence, a most considerate and thoughtful action by the cricket club, as their shouts of "Owzat" etc might otherwise have disturbed those solemn moments. This surely showed that all true sportsmen, and not just the soccer world, were deeply saddened by the tragedy.

●Charlton Colts play Brentford in the second leg of the South East Counties League Cup Final at Selhurst Park next Tuesday (7.15pm). The first leg at Griffin Park ended 22-2.

Even the 'keeper scored!
by COLIN BARR

CAMBERLEY WANDERERS powered to a record-breaking Parthenon League victory of 22-1 against NORTHOLT SAINTS yesterday, with all their players, including goalkeeper Roy Brookes joining in the goals spree.
Don McBurney, Camberley's inside right and trainer, topped the tally with seven goals. After the match they celebrated at the King's Arms, their local headquarters.

On to a more lighter note. I spotted the above cutting recently in the "Croydon Advertiser." Do you think it was worth playing the second leg?
OK - I know it was a misprint (at least I assume it was!), but big scores like that are not totally unknown - hence my second cutting, which definitely isn't a mis-print! I cam across this recently while clearing out some old newspapers. Does any reader know what happened to these two teams, and are they still in existence at junior level?
GEOFF AUSTIN, FLAT 8, NICOLL COURT, 48 NICOLL ROAD, LONDON, NW10 9AD.
Well, can any readers answer Geoff's question? If you can, drop us a line and we'll publish it on the "Hopper Post" pages. (Ed).

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Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
I am writing to answer the letter published in Issue 19 sent in by Douglas White. I help to run the Erith & Belvedere Club Shop, and I have heard us mentioned as one of the clubs Mr. White is complaining about. We send back programmes and badges to people who send money, but this isn't always the case as I used to send back items without receipt of monies and ended up out of pocket. I used my own money to send items out and the people concerned never had the decency to post me the money after receiving items. A lot of secretaries do the job unpaid as it is their love of the club which makes them work without financial gain.
In our case at Erith, Mr Meakins, our secretary is also chairman of the club, prints the programme as well as having a full time job, and, and will soon be due to retire due to ill health. If it wasn't for his spending hours making the club run smoothly at Erith, we wouldn't have a club to support at all.
PAUL GREENSLADE, 92 CLYFFE AVENUE, WELLING, KENT.
Sorry you found the letter from Mr. White so upsetting. I think that we would all agree that in the majority of cases, secretaries do a wonderful job and are a credit to their respective clubs and to football generally. However, it must be pointed out that there are one or two who give the rest a bad name by not pulling their weight, failing to answer letters and not performing the duties which are expected of them. (Ed).

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Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
The presence of hoolivans and legions of police at Wycombe Wanderers' 3rd Round F.A.Trophy tie with Merthyr Tydfil rather shattered the image of non-league football as the peaceable antithesis of its league counterpart.
The occasion illustrated that the symbolism of segregation and overtly heavy policing serves to reinforce and polarise rivalries on the terraces.
The strict division and definition of opposing supporters merely cements group

identity, especially amongst the more vociferous supporters.
The lesson is to take down the fences, abandon segregation and banish the law enforcers. We don't need any of these - Non-League football can police itself!
COLIN PEEL, 4 FARRIER CLOSE, SUTTON COLDFIELD, B76 8GW.
Our sentiments entirely - although you'll have to excuse my ignorance. What on earth does antithesis mean? (Ed).

\- - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
I think the question of clubs moving to new grounds cannot be generalised. Individual circumstances must be taken into account, and I feel that if the club wants the move to ensure financial security and/or replace outdated facilities, then this must be a good thing.
Take the situation of Scunthorpe in the Football League who now have a smashing new ground (despite the sickness of the "members-only" disease) and are now financially secure following the sale of the "Old Show Ground". What I don't like is the case of the club having to move in view of the demands of the dreaded needs of the developer, and falling into obscurity; eg Oxford City this year. I am particularly disappointed at the demise of Walthamstow Avenue, one of the most famous non-league clubs. Unfortunately, this seems to be part of the late 1980's society.
TREVOR MILES, 56 YORK ROAD, READING, RG1 8DX.
In the case of Oxford City, it was a great tragedy that they were forced to fold, but although in Scunthorpe's case they got a new ground and financial security out of it, the whole deal still leaves you feeling rather sad that a smashing old ground such as "The Old Show Ground" will never be seen again, and that a characterless new stadium with a rather "plastic" feel to it has replaced it. (Ed).

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Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
I would like to suggest a GM Vauxhall Conference team which I'M sure would do well against any 3rd or 4th Division team:-
1. Mark Beeney (Maidstone United), 2. Paul Shirtliff (Boston United), 3. Duncan Horton (Welling United), 4. John Glover (Welling United), 5. David Howell (Enfield), 6. Anton Joseph (Telford United), 7. Edwin Stein (Barnet), 8. Robert Shilrock (Kidderminster Harriers), 9. Noel Ashford (Maidstone United), 10. Steve Butler (Maidstone United), 11. Steve Burr (Macclesfield Town).
I think that it is also about time that the FA Trophy Final is given coverage on T.V. I would have thought Channel 4 would be the obvious choice. How many times have we seen desperately disappointing First Division matches on TV recently? As a supporter of Maidstone United I have seen better games in the Conference and our 3-2 defeat of Barnet was one of the most exciting end-to-end matches I've seen. So come on, let's see more national coverage of non-league football, the grass roots of the game.
STEPHEN KNIGHT, 65 THE AVENUE, AYLESFORD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME20 7LQ.
Thanks for the totally unbiased GMVC eleven, Stephen. I suppose that the fact you come from Kent and half your selected team are playing for Kent clubs is purely coincidental. By the way, as this letter was written last February, I would like to know your views on League football now that your club have gained entry! (Ed).

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEW-LOOK "HOPPER POST" PAGES STARTING NEXT MONTH? IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL, ABOUT OUR MAGAZINE, OR ABOUT A GROUNDHOPPING EXPERIENCE, DROP US A LINE AT THE USUAL ADDRESS AND YOU MAY SEE YOUR LETTER IN PRINT.

LOOK OUT FOR THE NEW LOOK MAGAZINE STARTING NEXT MONTH. THERE WILL BE MORE COLOUR, MORE NEWS, MORE PHOTOS, MORE FEATURES, IN FACT - THERE WILL BE MORE OF EVERYTHING!
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GROUNDHOPPING IN N & W SOMERSET

•BY RICHARD BRIGGS•

The north and west regions of Somerset provide the bases for many football clubs, some with very picturesque settings. And a holiday in this part of the country is worthwhile with Exmoor, beautiful Lynmouth and North Devon resorts such as Ilfracombe all within easy reach.

Probably the most interesting setting is that of Taunton Saturday League side Middlezoy Rovers' ground. They play on the edge of an old airfield on the outskirts of the village of Westonzoyland. The airstrip is now used as a dummy road for learner HGV drivers! This is on the A372, a few miles south east of Bridgwater.

Not surprisingly, the ground is known as The Airfield. There is no cover, but there is hard standing along one side of the pitch where cars can also be parked. There are also trainers' boxes and some brick dressing rooms.

Probably the best Taunton Saturday League ground is Bishops Lydeard's Darby Way. Bishops Lydeard is about four miles north of Taunton on the A358 and the ground is on the north side of the village, behind the Darby Way housing estate. Outside the ground is a car park, while on one side of the pitch is a smart social club/dressing rooms block with hard covered standing for 50 people under the overhang of the roof.

Another district league ground with covered accommodation is Porlock's Recreation Ground. This small village on the North Somerset coast is right on the edge of Exmoor and is notorious for a very steep hill that leads there. Porlock football ground is by the church in Parsons Street, which is just off High Street, the main road.

The Recreation Ground has a very slopey pitch with dressing rooms and a social club behind one goal. There is cover for 50 under the overhang of the social club roof. The ground also features tennis courts, a bowling green, children's playing apparatus plus a car-park, while a path runs behind one goal.

Five miles east of Porlock is the seaside resort of Minehead, which has a population of around 12,000. I was rather disappointed with the acutal town, beacuse there seems to a be a lack of decent eating places, but the football ground is most impressive.



WELLINGTON F.C.

Sadly, the football club have hit hard times in recent years, and were relegated from the Great Mills League's premier division in the 1988-89 season. How times have changed - in the 1976-77 campaign, they finished second to Wimbledon in the premier division of the Southern League and were well ahead of such giants as Maidstone United, Kettering Town and Yeovil Town.

Minehead's Recreation Ground is in Irnham Road, which is about 100 yards from the town centre. The pitch is completely railed off while there is hard standing on one side and grass standing on the others. The side with the hard standing features a very impressive 300 seater stand, with a few rows of terracing in front of it.

There is also some covered terracing beside it, while the social club and dressing rooms are also by the stand. The Recreation Ground also includes tennis courts and another football pitch. Minehead issued a rather good programme with a very nice cover in the 1988-89 season.

Dunster is a couple of miles east of Minehead and has its own beach, but the actual village is about half a mile inland from it. Dunster is a very picturesque village with cobbled pavements, a couple of lovely hotels and numerous gift shops. Its main feature is Dunster Castle, a National Trust property. Dunster Football Club play in the Taunton Saturday League and their ground is on the south side of the village on the A396 to Tiverton. The pitch, which slopes from end to end, has dressing rooms and is backed by a small stream. There is no cover.


PORLOCK RECREATION GROUND

A ground with a gorgeous setting and plenty of good views four miles east of Dunster and right on the coast is Watchet Town's Memorial Ground. This is in Doniford Road on the eastern side of the town and a track leads to the ground, which also featrues a bowling green, tennis courts and a children's play area.

Watchet Town play in the Somerset Senior League on one of the two soccer pitches at the ground. One side of the main pitch is railed off and by it is the cricket pavilion, which is also used as the football grandstand because it has a few rows of seats.

Behind one goal is a stone shelter for 50 and a row of trees. This goal is only a few yards from the edge of a cliff, and although the ground is very exposed to the wind, it boasts some excellent views across to Wales. In fact, all along this area of coastline you can see Welsh towns such as Porthcawl and Barry, providing that the weather is suitable. Watchet Town have an excellent social club and dressing rooms block. In all, five different soccer teams use the Memorial Ground, lunciuding Sunday side Blue Waves.

Two miles south east of Watchet on the A39 lies the small town of Williton, which has a population of 2,500. Both Taunton Saturday League outfit Williton Town and Taunton Sunday League side Williton Rockets play at the town's pretty Memorial Ground, which is up a lane signed from Long Street.

The public field also has a children's play area while the football pitch features a dressing rooms block on one side. Also around the pitch are lots of trees and behind one goal is a hard path and a few park benches, so at least there is some sort of seating available!

Seven miles east of Williton on the A39 is the village of Nether Stowey. The football club play in the Taunton Saturday League at the village Playing Field, which is beside the main road and is clearly visible if approaching from Bridgwater, which lies five miles to the east. The Playing Field boasts a main pitch and another smaller one, dressing rooms, tennis courts and children's playing apparatus. There is no cover.

The town of Bridgwater (population 27,000), famous for its highly popular carnival, has two big sporting names from the past. Bridgwater Town 84 Football Club rose from the ashes of Southern League side Bridgwater Town and play at Fairfax Park, which is adjacent to Bridgwater College, which is signed from both Bath Road and Westonzoyland Road.

A new 200 seater grandstand was opened at the Somerset Senior League outfit's ground in March and the pitch has hard standing on two sides, plus quite a few advertising boards. The club's changing rooms and car-park are at the college. Fantastic programmes are issued and the people at Bridgwater Town 84 are very friendly so make a visit a priority next season. The club are well supported too, with average gates around the 150 mark.

Adjacent to Fairfax Park are a couple of other pitches, one of which is used by Bridgwater Town 84's reserves in the Taunton Saturday League.

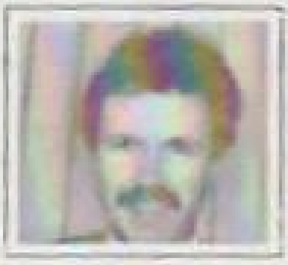
The other famous name in the town is Bridgwater and Albion Rugby Club, who have hit hard times. But their ground, although not a soccer ground, is well worth a visit. It is next to the swimming pool behind the town centre on the Broadway, which is part of the A39.

Behind one goal is a car-park, and at the near side of the ground as you enter is a long section of covered terracing, but part of it has been closed because it is unsafe. On the other side of the pitch are the dressing rooms and social club, plus a superb 800 seater stand, which is similar to Dartford Football Club's. The ground also features floodlights and programmes are issued for all matches.

Somerset's county town, Taunton, is 11 miles south of Bridgwater, and not surprisingly, a number of Taunton

Continued on page 21

BADGERS SET



with TOBY JACKSON

25 Tulip Court, Nursery Road, Pinner HA5 2AP Middlesex

I sometimes wonder if the effort is worthwhile. After all the criticism heaped upon badge producers recently in the Association of Football Badge Collectors newsletter comes the Groundhopper poll for popular columns which places "Badgers Set" bottom of readers' favourite reading! I suppose 6th equal as the "Most liked" column paradoxically gives some consolation and shows that if you're interested in badges, you'll read my column, if you're not, you won't!

As one who believes in trying to give those who pay their money what they want, I shall take the hint and give "BADGERS SET" a rest for a while. After all I've covered all the main Leagues in the country and the badges on offer in each, so until club issues change dramatically there seems little point going over old material. Badge enthusiasts are well catered for by the Association of Football Badge Collectors and with annual subscription at just £6-00 there is no reason for any collector not to join. To give an idea of my own "Non-League Scene" column, I have reproduced the basis of last month's column below:-

"My new badge out this month is a circular gilt issue for Leek Town FC in black and blue enamel at £1-75 plus P&P as below. Nothing to add to last month's personal pipeline items (Redditch United FC, Leicester United FC, Eastwood Town FC and Aberystwyth Town FC SC). Katon Hall College FC have topped up their order to cater for collectors' postal requests. Dover Athletic FC have a new enamel issue and a plastic bubble badge is on offer from Chatteris Town SC.

Altrincham do not seem to be back in stock yet. Dulwich Hamlet are out of their latest issue as are Hednesford Town of their Bill Dellow Cup Final badges. Both plan to restock next season. Cambridge City SC badges have expired at the club, but they may try a variation with the full club name quoted. John Grimmett advises me that he could find no badges at Launceston, Truro City, Penzance, Newquay, Sholing Sports or Brockenhurst. Southport are out of stock too.

New boys in the GMVC, Darlington, have none of their League badges left, but I have tried to interest them in a new issue to celebrate their promotion to the Non-League game. Going in the opposite direction Maidstone United are contemplating re-ordering as well as a Championship badge.

Despite the criticism of colour variations, Tony Middleton tells me that Dagenham have sold 200 of their variation badges with many supporters keen to have the set of all four. Some no doubt would argue that Dagenham should consider outside collectors above their own supporters and abandon such unethical ventures, but I wonder where the 200 sales to AFBC members alone would have come from. Ample consolation for the sleepless nights Tony has endured coming from the profits passed on to their parent club I imagine! Any way, Dagenham intend to repeat the idea when the position with Leytonstone & Ilford has been clarified as various amalgamations of ground and/or clubs are being discussed. Time for our die-hards to get their petitions ready!

Badges are in the thoughts of Newton Abbot FC of the South Western League, Cup specialists Bashley FC, and Oadby Town FC of the Leics Senior League. Hayes are contemplating a classier crested badge.

Two overseas badge enthusiasts keen on exchanges are Dirk Konig, D-3160 Lehrte, Durerring 48. West Germany and Peter Wenzel, Dornburger Str. 62, Jena 6900. East Germany.

My new June badge lists are available by large SAE to 25 Nursery Road, Pinner, Middx. HA5 2AP. Badge orders should include 25p for padded P&P up to 5 badges, 35p up to 10, 45p up to 20. Orders over £10 need 24p Recorded Delivery also."

The above gives you a rough idea of how I try to keep collectors up to date with Non-League badge news, but that is the last time for a while that I shall bore the learned majority with talk of badges in GROUNDHOPPER. Next month I shall end on the topic of badges by quoting a full list of Non-League badges available from me (as I did last August) and then I shall be penning a new column entitled "BEAZER VISA - AROUND THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE" following my own travels with Wealdstone around the clubs in our League as we spend what will probably be a final season at Lower Mead. If things work out as I intend, my travels will also be recorded by photos from the Beazer grounds (after seeking guidance from camera expert Tony Middleton!), so hopefully there will be something of interest for most including insight into the Board Rooms that normally are excluded from the lenses of hoppers. The October GROUNDHOPPER, out at the start of September (?) will start at Lower Mead itself with a look behind the scenes before I set off around the southern half of the country. It should be fun - at least I cannot do worse than bottom in next year's poll!

Toby Jackson

TONY MIDDLETON COLUMN (from page 9)

sense, moving 16 miles away. How can they realistically call themselves Maidstone. Charlton to the Palace, what a farce that turned out to be. Their supporters hate it, and who can blame them when the Valley lies empty and derelict. Bristol Rovers to Bath. Crass stupidity. If Bristol cannot support two teams in their own town, let one of them fold naturally.

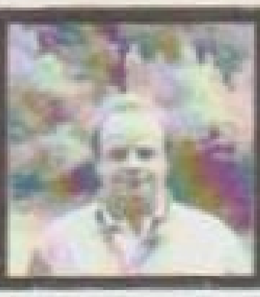
What worries me is that the next step is amalgamation. Take Ilford. They lost their Lynn Road ground, made half hearted efforts to move to Fairlop, where it was surely obvious to everyone that such a move was never likely to get off the ground, then moved in to Granleigh Road, to share with Leytonstone. Amalgamation followed. Ilford & Leytonstone, the programme proudly proclaimed. But only for one match, and then it became Leytonstone Ilford. We all know what happened next. Leytonstone sold their ground, and moved in with Walthamstow Avenue.

I never expected Stones to find a new ground, in fact I do not know of a single Stones supporter who expected them to either. I can remember when a Leytonstone v Walthamstow match would pull in 10,000 plus to Green Pond Road, and it was incredible that these two teams should merge. But merge they did, to become Leytonstone Ilford incorporating Walthamstow Avenue F.C. Once the strongest teams in Essex, they played last season before crowds of less than 100, which illustrates exactly what the two sets of supporters thought of the merger.

We heard many stories last season of how the new club was looking for a ground to replace the doomed Avenue ground. Chingford Town's old venue was high on the list, but we have to remember that the local Chingford public were promised that league football would never be considered. Then again, anyone who has been to Chingford never expected the move to materialise anyway. The ground is not even up to Isthmian standard, and nor is it ever likely to be.

So, when Stones won the league and looked towards the Alliance, where would they go. The Avenue ground is one of the best in the country, but not, apparently, good enough for the Alliance. Two venues were mentioned, Leyton Orient, and Dagenham. The Orient proposals fell through, and Dagenham became the lucky hosts. Lucky, who is kidding who. How long will it be before another local club loses it identity, and joins the likes of Ilford and Walthamstow, a mere name in football history books. How long will it be before the Daggers are stabbed in the back. Has anyone ever asked the supporters what they think.

RON JONES' PROGRAMME SCENE



BY THE MAN WHO KNOWS HIS NON-LEAGUE PROGRAMMES

This month, as there are no current season issues to review, I thought it would be a good idea to have a look at some of the more unusual clubs and one or two first issues by a club, and also those programmes notable for their size or source of issue.

In the 1960's CHIGWELL of the South Essex League had a typical 'Allsports' issue, but the editorial "...with new players probably in both teams..." wasn't giving much away. Inside, "team details not to hand" is shown for both the home side and visitors Park United! No date or season is shown, so all in all, it seems surprising that they bothered to issue for this game. Incidentally, the back page notes are printed rather than the usual duplicated style of most programmes of this kind.

In the Surrey Combination League, HAM produced a regular issue in 1979-80, and it is a pity that the duplicating is almost unreadable in places, as this eight pager includes results, statistics, match reports and club news, and apart from the print quality is a fine issue from this almost unknown club.

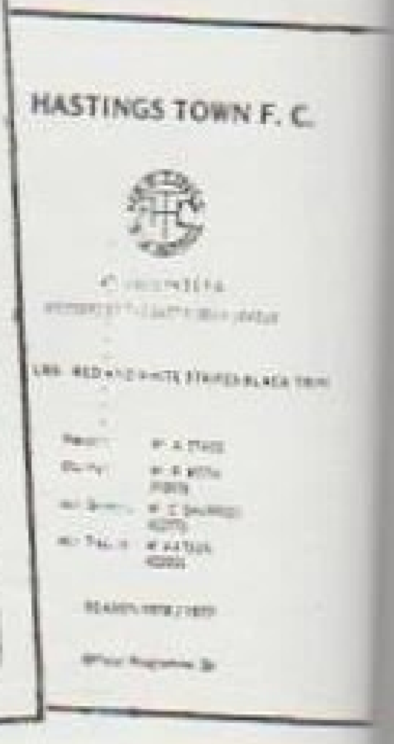
Moving down to the Sussex County League, and the old HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS had a novel way of complying with the compulsory programme rule with the minimum of expense. They had a duplicated sheet with the club name and ground on the front, with the centre listing 'home team' and 'away team' with the numbers 1-11 listed underneath. The club would then handwrite the team line-ups, with only a handful produced for the officials. Although not offered to spectators, when I visited the Bulverhythe to see a match against Wick in 1975, I managed to get a copy after the game so left the ground the proud possessor of a badly tea-stained but genuine handwritten issue. By the time they had become HASTINGS TOWN, a red standard cover, complete with adverts had been produced, but the team line-ups on the centre pages were individually typed. A far cry from the club's current issue as a Beazer Homes League club.

In 1986-87, KETTERING F.C. competed in the Central Midland League for a season, and although based at Rockingham Road they were nominally separate from Kettering Town and produced a regular 10p programme of either 4 or 8 pages with a red cover featuring a photo of the stand. Notes, CML news and a feature on the opposition provided the main content.

Manchester League OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS produced a 'souvenir programme' for the 1983-84 season, with 36 pre-printed pages throughout in black. The match programme ran to 12 pages and covered all the essential details and snippets of







club news. The idea behind the souvenir programme was to entice the purchaser (for 50p) to a prize draw for a holiday.
Although SHEPSHED CHARTERHOUSE programmes do not have such a rarity value as some of those mentioned, their regular 1988-89 issue has a very large (A5) page size. Only a 4-page insert is needed to cover all the regular information, with an aerial photo of the ground included on the cover. A few other clubs, such as Croby have also experimented with the 'oversize' issues in the recent past. Mentioning Corby brings us on to the town's STEWART & LLOYDS club, whose Occupation Road ground was adjacent to Corby Town's old home. Although never, as far as I know, publishing themselves, Stewart & Lloyds had issues published for them by the prolific Acorn Publications back in 1976-77. The usual features to be found in this type of issue all appeared, although there were no team details from the home club. While there is no doubt that this type of issue has limited appeal to many 'strict' programme collectors who go in for the 'one per club' method, at least they offer the chance to obtain something from a club such as S & L who would not issue themselves.
A friendly match between works side WEST & COE and John Preston Youth Club saw a 4-page (printed on one side only) duplicated issue. The editorial starts... "As a departure from our previous matches with funeral firms..." going on to introduce the day's opponents. After playing funeral firms, were these new visitors going to be stiff opposition? One to appeal to the 'one per club' collectors, who goes for programmes from all levels of clubs. What is more remarkable about this issue, which includes full line-ups, was that it was for an early kick off midweek match back in April 1976.
Finally to a 'first issue' this time from WINSLOW UNITED who made their 'debut' in the programme field when they entertained Haddenham United in the county intermediate cup in January 1975. A basic 4 sided photocopied issue to start with, but at a time when fewer clubs outside the senior ranks issued than nowadays, it is still a welcome addition.

Many thanks to all readers who have supported the programme service over the season. As most of our stock was sold at the International Programme Fair, we will not be producing another list until September, more details nearer the time. We do have a limited number of Special Offer bundles - 10 different 1988-89 non-league club programmes for £1.50 INCLUDING postage. If you would like one please write in as soon as possible as stocks are limited. Each bundle contains programmes from 10 different clubs around the country and all are in mint condition.
NEXT MONTH I WILL BE BACK WITH A COMPLETELY NEW-LOOK COLUMN, WHERE I WILL BE LOOKING AT MORE NON-LEAGUE PROGRAMMES, PAST AND PRESENT. SEE YOU THEN.



SPOT the GROUND

UP TO £100 can be won

— COMPETITION —

It's hanky time as we announce that this is the last in the series of "Spot the Ground" Competitions. Wipe away those tears as I bring you the good news (what do you mean, you thought that WAS the good news!). Seriously, from next month, there will be a brand new type of competition which will be even more brilliant than this one although I know you are all wondering how anything could ever be as good as this one. And despite the sackfuls of letters pleading with me to carry on the "Spot the Ground" competition (thank's, mother!), we have decided to go ahead with something different from next month, where we will have several prizes to give away each month so you will have more chances to win.
Last month's competition created quite a good number of entries, but the lucky winner drawn by the editor was:- PAUL KINGSTON, 10 DAYRELL SQUARE, CAMP HILL, NORTHAMPTON, NN4 9RJ. Well done Paul, your £5 prize will be on its way to you in the next few days. You'll go down in hostory as being our last winner in the "Spot the Ground" competition. Fame at last, lad!
And the answer to the last game was, of course, EDGWARE and the false clue was No.6 because they have never been in the Isthmian League.
As this is the last one, we thought we would make it incredibly hard this month, and we have decided that if the competition isn't won this month, we would donate the £5 prize to the Hillsbrough Disaster Fund. Hope you all agree with that decision. Anyway, just study the two photos of a non-league ground below and by using your knowledge of the non-league scene, study the six clues which go with the photos. One of the clues is not true, and we have included it to try to fool you all. All you have to do is to write down on the back of a sealed envelope or postcard the name of the club and the false clue number, and send it in by no later than Friday 14th July to:- *SPOT THE GROUND COMPETITION, GAME No. 14, GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE, 439 MERTON ROAD, WANDSWORTH, LONDON, SW18 5LB.* And don't forget to include your name and address.
Answers and winner (if any) will be announced in our special new-look September issue next month. The correct entries will be placed into a hat and a winner drawn by the editor on Saturday 15th July.



GAME 14

Here are your SIX clues as to which club is featured this month. But remember - one of these clues is incorrect. Good luck!

1). *Not to be confused with a North London club Osvaldo Ardiles used to play for!*
2). *They play at the Recreation Ground.*
3). *They were formed in 1906.*
4). *Their playing strip is very similar to that of Arsenal's.*
5). *They play in Bedfordshire.*
6). *In the 1950's, when they narrowly lost to Manchester City in an FA Cup 3rd Round tie at Maine Road, the City manager described it as one of the hardest games of the season so far!*

Sorted it all out yet. I know you will all be particularly stumped over which is the false clue! Told you it would be hard this month. Don't forget to get those cards in by Friday 14th July at the latest.

Groundhopper Magazine General Guidance Notes

1. The main aim of the Groundhopper Magazine and the jointly run Groundhoppers Club is to promote Non-League football and to give it's subscribers and club members the opportunity of contributing in the form of articles, letters and photographs, etc.
2. Membership of the Groundhoppers Club is FREE. To join, write to Steve Pettit (Membership Secretary) at the address on the inside front cover, enclosing full details such as your name, address, groundhopping interests, etc. Also, please enclose a s.a.e. for the return of your membership card.
3. Once you become a member you are entitled to certain privileges as outlined in the club literature detailed elsewhere.
4. As a club it will be financed in association with Groundhopper Magazine, and all members will receive an annual statement of accounts at the A.G.M. on a date to be arranged, probably on the day of a convention at a non-league venue to be decided. Full details will appear in the magazine.
5. There will be conventions, organised trips to grounds and fundraising events throughout the year, jointly arranged by the Groundhopper Magazine and Groundhoppers Club.
6. Groundhopper Magazine is published EVERY month throughout the year, with current subscription rates shown on the inside front cover. Contained in each issue are full details of all Club events such as news of conventions, etc.
7. If sending photographs for inclusion in the magazine, please note that there may be a delay in returning them if more than six are sent at once. The process for preparing them for publication is expensive, and we can therefore only use photos for one issue at a time. Please ALWAYS indicate when sending photos whether you would like them returned or whether we can retain them.
8. The magazine is usually despatched on the 15th of each month, subject to copy deadlines being met with our printers. You should receive your magazine about two weeks prior to cover date. (ie: January issue received 16th or 17th December).
9. We cannot be held responsible for material being lost in the post when being returned to originator after use (such as photos, etc.)
10. The magazine is available on SUBSCRIPTION ONLY. When you are coming to the end of your subscription we will send you a letter reminding you that it is time to renew, and will enclose a new subscription form.
11. A joint Groundhoppers Club and Magazine Committee has been formed, with the purpose of helping to organise events, help with fund-raising, etc. If YOU would like to join please write to Steve King for full details.
12. A limited number of back issues of Groundhopper Magazine are available from Ron Jones, 24 Poplar Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3JR. For current availability please check elsewhere in this month's issue.
13. For copy dates for this year's issues, please see elsewhere for full details, which also includes despatch dates for the magazine.
14. Please give the magazine maximum publicity whenever possible, and support us at the Annual General Meeting and at conventions and all organised events.

Please mention Groundhopper Magazine when you write to any of our advertisers

GROUNDHOPPER Magazine

ACTION SHOTS



Barry Cooper of Thame Utd takes on the Biggleswade defence during his side's 3-0 away win in the Cove Windows Trophy game 15.4.89. *D.R. WEST.*



Crockenhill defender shepherds the ball to 'keeper Broderick Tucker at the Wested Ground v. Danson who won 1-0, set in the heart of the Kent Countryside on 19.4.89. *D.R. WEST.*